

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RIVERS DAM MANITOBA



The Rivers Dam controls the flow of the Minnedosa River and stores water for agricultural purposes.

Aerial Photograph of Rivers Dam and Reservoir

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Regina, Saskatchewan. July, 1961

RIVERS DAM

LOCATION

The Rivers Dam is located on the Minnedosa River, sometimes known as the Little Saskatchewan River, about one mile northeast of the Town of Rivers, Manitoba. The river is a tributary of the Assiniboine River, and flows in a southerly direction from the Clear Lake area of Manitoba. It joins the Assiniboine River eight miles west of the City of Brandon, about 16 miles south of the damsite.

PURPOSE

The Rivers Dam has been built to create a reservoir which will provide a reliable supply of water for livestock throughout the areas associated with the project, and is of sufficient size to make water available for domestic use in the surrounding rural and urban communities. The Rivers project is also assisting in maintaining the streamflow in both the Minnedosa and Assiniboine Rivers. This is a particularly important feature during dry periods when normal streamflow might cease or be insufficient to provide for proper sanitation and riparian requirements. The reservoir also provides ideal opportunities for recreational development.

HISTORY

The original application for a water storage survey in the Rivers area was received from the Rural Municipality of Daly in 1947. Subsequent requests were received from the Town of Rivers, the Rivers Agricultural Society, and the Rivers District Chamber of Commerce. Preliminary investigations followed, and on the basis of these findings, the Manitoba Government asked the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of the Canada Department of Agriculture, to investigate the feasibility of constructing a dam. Following a favorable report, authorization to construct the dam was sought and obtained. Construction began in June, 1958 and was completed in 1960. Cost of the structure which includes purchase of land, amounted to \$1,085,392.40.

The reservoir created by the dam has been named Lake Wahtopanah by the people of the district. This is an Indian name borne by a segment of the Assiniboine tribe. This particular band of Indians, the Wahtopanahs, were known to journey up the Little Saskatchewan River hunting and foraging about 150 years ago. Many articles are still being found on the banks of the river which can be traced back to this particular tribe.

STATISTICS

Dam

Length	4,000 feet
Base width	500 feet
Maximum Height	72 feet
Volume of Embankment	900,000 cu. yds.

Spillway

Width	110 feet
Design capacity	10,000 c.f.s.

Reservoir

Length	6 miles
Width	2,000 feet
Length of Shoreline	14 miles
Surface Area	1,700 acres
Total storage (Design Flood Level)	40,000 acre feet
Usable storage	24,500 acre feet

Riparian Outlet

Type ..	4' x 4' reinforced concrete gated conduit
Length	420 feet

Drainage Area 1,260 sq. mi.